operational cost of vehicles which includes the cost of fuel also. However, the quantum of increase depends on several factors like condition of road and type of vehicles etc.

(b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only. As far as National Highways in the NCT of Delhi are concerned, the Govt. is contemplating strengthening of the existing pavement and augmentation of capacity by widening, subject to availability of funds.

New number plates of motor vehicles

2759. SHRI K. KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number plates of motor vehicles are being replaced by high security registration licence plates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the State Governments to maintain uniformity in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The High Security Registration Plates are envisaged for new vehicles with effect from 30.6.2002. Existing vehicles would have a period of two years thereafter to convert.

(c) The Ministry has laid down the specifications for the plates. The agencies authorized to give Type Approval have been notified. Prospective vendors have to get their sample plates tested and approved by these authorized testing agencies. Thereafter selection of the vendor will be made by the respective State Governments.